

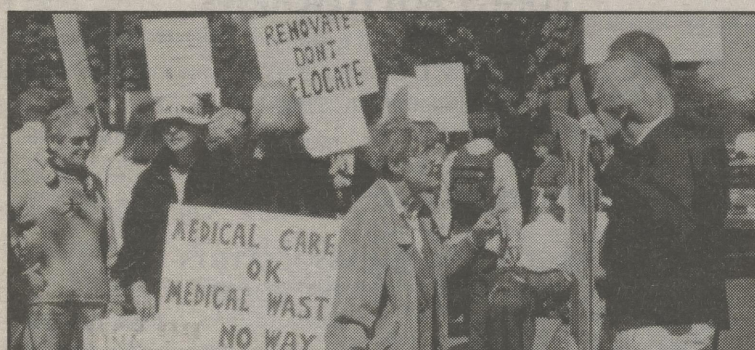


# Foggy Bottom News

November 1999

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 42, No. 2



## FB Residents Rally Against Hospital Site

On Wednesday, October 6, 75 FB residents gathered at the site of the proposed GWU Hospital, to protest the site chosen as ill-conceived, dangerous to pedestrians, and insensitive to nearby residents who live just west of the lot.

The occasion was the ceremonial ground-breaking for the facility held on the recently-vacated parking lot just north of the Foggy Bottom Metro station. Those attending the rally carried signs and handed out a fact sheet listing the disadvantages of the proposal. Safety, traffic on 23rd and 24th Streets, the location and size of the loading dock almost adjacent to residences on narrow 24th Street were among the reasons for the protest.

FBA Board member Doug Abbey organized a group of residents to make flyers and signs, compose the fact sheet, rally the neighbors and notify the press. Kirsten Olsen helped by drafting the press release and making signs; Melissa Charron and Ben Klotz, and others, distributed flyers and made signs, alerting neighbors to the rally. Frazier, Melissa's black poodle, even cooperated by carrying signs himself. Jennie Lazowski and Ann Mikulik posted them-

selves on 24th Street near a space marked off to show the loading dock, and carried the message to passersby on that street, including GWU President Trachtenberg. Ginny Aycock-Burr did follow-up phone calls to the press, as did Tom Bower, who left his job at the Smithsonian to spend his lunch hour with his neighbors. Steve Timlin worked a late shift that day, and first got his exercise by making a continual circuit of the block with his protest sign.

The demonstration was covered by News-channel 8 and appeared on Channels 7 and 9. Stories appeared in The GW Hatchet and the Georgetown Current as well. The turnout by residents indicated the depth of their concern about the harm they feel the new facility will be to the community; they all hope the university and the hospital—and city officials—were watching and listening.

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## UPDATE

### 24th & K Bridge Up For Rehab Count on Tieups!

Work will begin on replacing the lighting, bridge deck and sidewalks at 24th & K and on the service roads in the 2400 block of K Street, starting in November and lasting about a year. For 3-4 months during the project, 24th Street will be closed at that intersection; only one lane of each service road will be open for traffic. Plan now for alternate traffic patterns during this year-long period; traffic around Washington Circle, already impacted, may be close to impassable.

### ANC Testifies on GW Bond Request

ANC Chair Barbara Spillinger was among the witnesses who testified October 8 before a D. C. Council committee hearing on GWU's request for \$380 million in tax-exempt bonds. The bonds will allow GW to finance and refinance debt at a lower interest rate. The residents of the Foggy Bottom community, according to Spillinger, find themselves "in the incredible — indeed absurd — position of being asked to approve privileged funding for the very institution that is indiscriminately buying up our homes, our apartments and our neighborhood." Ted Sheridan of Watergate West called on the committee to "adopt objec-

Update, to page 12

## DPW Director to Address FBA

At the FBA meeting on Monday, October 25, the featured speaker will be Vanessa Dale Burns, Director of the D. C. Department of Public Works (DPW). Appointed by Mayor Williams in June of this year, Burns is responsible for the most visible department in the D. C. government, with a budget of \$140 million and a work force of over 1100 employees. DPW's duties include street maintenance (the deadly potholes), trash collection, traffic and parking (including parking enforcement).

Most recently the director of public works in Evanston, Illinois, Burns also held similar positions in New Haven, Connecticut and Cleveland, Ohio. In Evanston, according to the announcement of her appointment, she reduced "work injuries, helped lower overtime costs...and helped improve morale and employees' pride in the organization."

One of her New Haven projects was development of a paper bag leaf collection program, and she made improvements in leaf collection in Cleveland as well. A new pamphlet on the District's new fall leaf collection program has just been distributed to homeowners here. (See separate article in this issue.) Burns is a graduate of American University in government and earned her Master's in public administration from the University of New Haven.

A group of Foggy Bottom residents met with her earlier this year, and agreed she seemed decisive, listened well, and they spied a sharp sense of humor, probably an essential quality for the job she has undertaken.

Please join other FBA members and friends at the Wyndham Bristol, to hear her plans and hopes for DPW, whose work has a constant and crucial effect on all residents.

**Vote on GW Bonds November 2, 10:00 am**  
**440 4th Street (judiciary square).**  
**Plan to attend!**

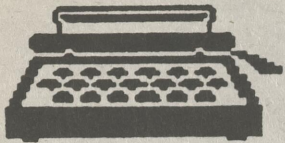
## FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome  
Speaker:

**Vanessa Dale Burns**  
Director, D.C. Department of Public Works

**Monday, October 25, 1999**  
**Wyndham Bristol Hotel**  
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
7:30 p.m.

(Next Month's Meeting, November 22, 1999)



## A Real Wake-Up Call

The last FBNews was terrific — a real wake-up call. I'm sending copies to all ex-Foggy Bottomers (Liz Davis, Margaret Hayes, etc.) to pitch in on the battle if they can.

I have also written, as suggested, to Spillinger, Williams, Evans, Cropp and Holmes. It may do not much good but little harm. Keep up the good work.

Morella Hansen  
Potomac Plaza

Note: Morella Hansen has lived in the neighborhood for many years, and served on the FBA Board and as acting president some years ago. The editor values her words!

## Takeover of Great Concern

Please find enclosed a copy of my letter to Mayor Anthony Williams. It explains my great concern for the developments in our neighborhood. The quality of life has been reduced by the takeover of many homes and buildings by George Washington University. I hope you take an interest in the state of our neighborhood. I thank you for your help and attention in this matter.

[Following is an excerpt from the writer's lengthy letter to the Mayor:]

I am alarmed what is happening in our neighborhood. For 26 years I have been a resident and like it very much. I do not drive and can walk to stores and theaters. To my dismay there are many changes around here caused by the

takeover of many homes and buildings by GWU, a non-taxpaying institution. I do not understand why the city's Zoning Board allowed the university to buy Howard Johnson across from me. This was a commercial building for a lot of tourists, who paid hotel taxes to the city. There was a nice diner for the public; that now is closed. And there is another proposal to build a hospital next to the Metro Station and private homes on New Hampshire Avenue and 23rd Street. This will cause a terrible traffic jam while trucks load and unload goods and garbage....

The president of the university seems to be more interested in real estate than in education. If he has too many students to accommodate them on campus he should lower their admission. I am an elderly, taxpaying and voting resident of this city and want you to know how I feel about the District of Columbia. I only hope it is not too late for you to help us.

Ursula R. Dorpalen  
Watergate West

## Trachtenberg Sends Best Wishes on FBA's 40th

During the season of celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Foggy Bottom Association, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to all of you the best wishes of the University. It seems fair to say that, over the years, both the Association and the University have made marked contri-

## Farbstein Resigns as FBA Vice President

Charles Farbstein has resigned as FBA Vice-President, asking to be relieved for the duration of his ill health. An election to succeed him will be held at the November FBA meeting. According to the Bylaws, vacancies are filled by the membership at any meeting provided 15 days' written notice is given.

Contributions to this area both to the landscape and the residents. I would like to think that as we go into the Millennium together, we can look for and find new ways to cooperate for the benefit of the neighborhood. May you enjoy great pleasure and good fellowship in your [anniversary] events.

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg  
President  
The George Washington University

## Parttime GW Teachers Demonstrate

A group of graduate students and parttime faculty union organizers led a campus demonstration to protest inadequate pay and no health care. After several years of being ignored by the GWU administration, the teachers have unionized and demanded

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## FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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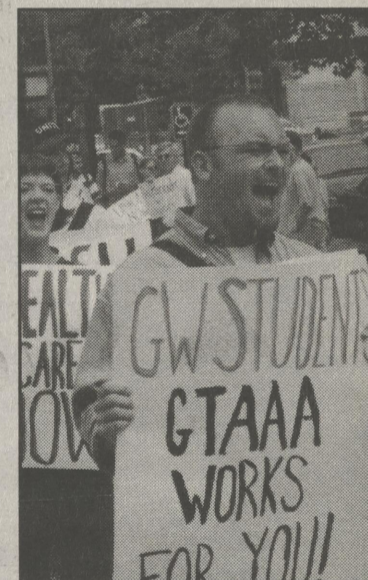
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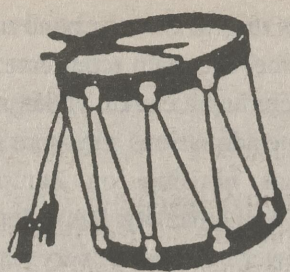
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## The Becker Beat



### Let's Think About Colleges and Other Tax- Exempts

The first week in October produced a maze of media attention to Foggy Bottom and to other D. C. communities besieged, as we are, by tax-exempt institutions as "neighbors." Stephen C. Fehr's article on GW's plans for Mount Vernon College led the Post Metro Section that Monday. That same day appeared the GW Hatchet with Matt Berger's lengthy examination of GW's purchases of real estate outside its campus (reprinted in this issue). Also on that Monday appeared The Common Denominator, a relatively new publication, with its lengthy article entitled "Neighbors try to slow GW growth."

Then along came some articles about the problems in the Catholic University area, and a Wednesday Washington Times Metropolitan section

front-page article, "It's no party living near a college campus." Later that day TV news covered the FBA's rally opposing the location of the GWU hospital. Also on Monday the Post's Business Section included two columns on another tax-exempt's impact on the neighborhood. Mike Cleary's Property Lines column was headed "Plans for Red Cross headquarters angers Foggy Bottom residents." And the Post's Rudolph Pyatt featured the Red Cross's request for industrial revenue bonds for its planned 10-story headquarters. Other articles appeared on GWU's request for about \$400 million of these revenue bonds.

I'd be happy to provide any interested member of the D. C. Council, or in Mayor Williams' administration, with a collage of this one-week media blitz. To us they add up to a clarion call for a good "look-see" at the power of and impact (not always beneficial) of the tax-exempts on the citizens of this city.

### Evans Discusses Foggy Bottom Issues

At the September 27 FBA meeting, Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans "faced the nation" and covered a lot of ground. A prime topic was a proposed development of the parkland west of 26th Street between I and L Streets. Evans stated that in 1994, as part of the Comprehensive Plan Amendments process, Council staff, working with the Office of Zoning, determined that this park area is currently "unzoned." As a result, the council member legislated a provision to ensure that, if at some point in the future this area were to be zoned, it would be designated as permanent parkland ("parks, recreation and open space"). At the FBA meeting, there was some confusion because of a recent opinion by

the current Acting Director of the Office of Zoning that the land is zoned for high density residential use. Evans' office reports that since the meeting, he and his staff "have been working to ensure that, if indeed there is a discrepancy between the Comprehensive Plan and an earlier zoning classification, the later-enacted designation in the Comp Plan will prevail." (The FBA has already received half a dozen letters from residents concerned about this matter, more than on any other subject in the past.)

The American Red Cross project, Evans said, was "at the top of my list of difficult, present challenges." The proposed building at 2025 E Street would adversely effect its neighbors. The Red Cross' request for revenue bonds has been tabled, and Evans "agreed to spearhead negotiations with the Red Cross to reach a compromise that will protect those most affected."

### St. Paul's Bazaar Set for November 20

The Annual Fall Rummage Sale and Bazaar, sponsored by St. Paul's Parish, is set for Saturday, November 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The location is the church's Pillsbury Hall, 2430 K Street, N.W.

In addition to wearing apparel, good books and music along with unique and charming items in the collectibles corner, baked goods will be offered as a special treat for the palate. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the parish's community outreach ministry.

Donations of clean apparel in good repair, books, LPs, cassettes and CDs, good and interesting jewelry, as well as arts and crafts items will be gratefully accepted beginning the week of November 14. The sale cannot accept household items or appliances, large or small.

For further information, call 337-2020.

### Don't Forget — Designate Your School for Safeway Benefits

This year each person must designate that all receipts purchased with their Safeway Club Card should go to the school of their choice. There will no longer be a collection of Safeway cash register tapes to earn for schools needed and desired equipment free of charge. Just visit the office at your local Safeway store and let them know the name of the school you choose. The schools in the FB/West End area are Stevens Elementary School on 21st Street, Francis Junior High on N Street, and School Without Walls High School on G

Street. Sign up one of them when you next shop at a Safeway.

If you do not have a Safeway Club Card, ask for an application; it entitles you to savings whenever you shop; if you do not wish your name to appear on your register tapes, just ask and they will take care of that.

Giant Food cash register tapes will again earn premiums for schools. Please save them and bring to the West End Library or to FBA meetings. Collection boxes are being distributed to apartment buildings which support this project.



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## BUY! BUY! BUY!:

*GW's recent expansion has created a debate between the University and its neighbors by Matt Berger Special Projects Editor (Originally appeared in The GW Hatchet, October 4, 1999)*

Ask five people at GW where the University's boundaries are and you may get five different answers. Some believe the University ends where its property ends. Others believe the campus is housed between the four busts of George Washington.

What few people realize is there is a big difference between GW's plan for expanding the campus and its official campus plan.

"The campus plan is a term of art," said GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg.

GW is required to file with the District government an official plan every 10 to 15 years, outlining where the University is bordered and what it plans to do with the property it owns within that region. GW is in the process of evaluating those questions and is expected to release its new plan for the next 10 years by next month.

But even as the community waits to see what the University has in store for its property, community officials are expressing concern about the University's recent expansion into historic Foggy Bottom and its plans to accumulate more local property.

### Westward expansion

"The George Washington University is the second-largest land owner in the District of Columbia."

That fact has been repeated many times. Prospective students hear it as they enter the trolley - and previously the double-decker bus - while looking at the University and its surrounding city. With the recent purchases of the former Mount Vernon College and Premier Hotel, GW has upgraded its presence in the city.

When the University last took an in-depth look at its campus in 1985, many things

were different. Most of today's college students were getting their feet wet in kindergarten and the early years of elementary school. Few students had chosen GW as their college of choice. Perhaps even Trachtenberg had not considered GW as his next institute of higher learning. He was president of Hartford College at that time.

The 1985 campus plan depicts a different University. Names like Calhoun, Everglades and Milton adorned residence halls now honoring Marquis de Lafayette, William Fulbright and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. But new names are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the University's changes. Since that time, new buildings have popped up within the campus's boundaries. And, to the worry of many local residents and community politicians, the University is pushing the boundaries outward. At community forums during the past months, local residents have expressed anger about University expansion. The Premier Hotel purchase sparked angry words from Watergate residents. Plans for a new GW Hospital have upset some local residents who feel the location is not ideal and who are concerned about traffic congestion. What has surprised many people is a recent decision by the University to request a tax-exempt bond from the D.C. government for up to \$440 million, partially for real

estate and construction projects. The City Council is expected to hear testimony about the bond this week, and both sides said they expect GW will receive approval. The low-interest bond will help the University stabilize the rates it is paying on loans and turn taxable debt into tax-exempt debt from the D.C. program, said Catherine Lynch, associate vice president for Treasury Management. "The decision to approach the District to use their revenue bond program is part of restructuring of the debt side of our balance sheet," she said. Lynch said less than half of the money is to support a series of capital projects, including the Health and Wellness Center, the School of Media and Public Affairs building and smaller purchases and improvements at both the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses. But local residents say they are outraged by the University attempting to get what they see as "special treatment" from the District as GW takes over more community property. "(The District government) is rewarding them by giving them these tax-exempt bonds that let them have a lower interest rate," said Ellie Becker, Foggy Bottom Association president. "You and I can't get these rates when we're buying a house." The Advisory Neighborhood Commission, which weighs issues of zoning and community interest, passed a resolution Tuesday asking the city

not to give GW the bond until it meets certain requirements, including a cap on undergraduate admissions and more student housing on campus. "The University has a lot of power and is a very large presence in the District," said Barbara Spillinger, the ANC chair. "We're trying to preserve our community. If the University wants to expand, we hope they'll do it somewhere else." But Lynch said what the University is doing is both legal and adheres to GW's educational mission. "It's absolutely an appropriate use of tax-exempt bonds," she said. "It's going to put the University in a lot better position to provide top-notch education."

### Crossing the lines

As part of the upcoming campus plan, the University will explain its prediction for the area within its borders, between 24th and 19th streets, F Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The new campus plan may not reflect a lot of the real changes the University is undergoing. Because many changes are outside of its boundaries, the University does not need to list recent acquisitions such as the Aston, the Hall on Virginia Avenue and a block of space on E Street, said Eve Dubrow, senior advisor for operations in the Office of the Vice President and Treasurer and the campus plan project manager. "When we purchase outside the boundaries of the

campus plan, we are purchasing as a private property owner," Dubrow said. "We have rights just like any other private property owner." What concerns many community residents is not GW's expansion within the campus, but its increasing presence in the neighborhood that surrounds campus. In recent months, the University purchased the Aston and now fills the building with students. The community members say they have little voice concerning the University's expansion. "What they do inside the campus plan is subject to strict review," Spillinger said. "But what they do outside is not regulated. "We try to cope with the University's invasion into our community, but most times we don't know what they're going to do until it's done," she said. But Dubrow said the University is following the letter of the law, only using property for approved purposes, such as housing students on residential land or placing offices on business property.

"As long as we make use of it in the way it is zoned, we are in the range of any private property owner," she said.

Bernard Demczuk, assistant vice president of Government Relations, said although the University is expanding, there are no plans to move west of 24th Street, into the historic Foggy Bottom district.

"President Trachtenberg has had more than 100 opportunities to buy west of 24th



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Street, and he's never done it," Demczuk said.

Many community activists expect the University to expand its official boundaries when they file the new campus plan by year's end, including the housing and educational properties outside of the current area. "What we assume is that they're going to expand the campus boundary to include the property they've bought," Spillinger said. "In some cases, it might help if they expanded. It would improve standards." But Dubrow said there is no reason to expand the borders. "We're using the property in a 'matter of right' way," she said. "We're doing things outside of the campus plan that we've done forever and will continue to do." Trachtenberg said the University will keep the same boundaries in the next campus plan. "We are honoring the campus plan as the city has drawn it," he said. Richard Sheehy, a GW graduate and ANC commissioner, said the University should not be using its tax-free status to buy property outside of the campus plan.

"We need to make GW define its campus," Sheehy said. "Inside its campus, it should have special privileges. But outside of the campus, it should not."

Spillinger said although the properties are being used for their intended purpose, the city is taking a financial blow because the property is off the tax roll.

"We're all taxpayers, so if

all this land is taken off the tax rolls, it's hard for the District to consider a tax reduction," she said.

### Room and board

Many community residents see the University undergraduate admissions expanding out of control and administrators buying property to keep up. For this reason, ANC commissioners keep requesting a cap on enrollment as an essential part of a dialogue between the University and community. In its request to the D.C. City Council as part of its opposition to the revenue bond, the commission recommended limiting the number of full-time students at Foggy Bottom to 6,400 for the fall 2000 academic year, with 200 less the next year and 6,000 students for the year 2002 and after.

They also want at least 80 percent of students to be housed in University-operated housing within the boundaries of the campus plan. "When the students go into the (Hall on Virginia Avenue), that works much better than when they move into Columbia Plaza," Spillinger said.

Becker said the added number of undergraduates on campus has made living in some of the local apartment buildings unbearable for older residents.

"The increase of enrollment is pushing the students into the neighborhood at an alarming degree," she said. "How many bodies can you put in a limited area?"

University officials said housing students on campus is one of their priorities too.

"It has always been the intent of the University to house its students in University-operated buildings so we can monitor and supervise the students better," Demczuk said.

Demczuk said the West End apartment building, which was purchased by the University and is now being rented, may eventually become a residence hall.

### Dialogue

As the University and

community leaders head into battle over the campus and its expansion, both seem disappointed with the way things have started. Demczuk led a series of meetings with members of the ANC and several community groups as part of GW's required review of the campus plan with the community. Those talks broke down this summer, and each side blames the other. "Bernard Demczuk had organized a couple of meetings to talk about the campus plan, but we talked about everything but the campus plan," Spillinger said. "We wanted to listen before we put something on paper," Demczuk said as to why residents did not receive a draft of the campus plan. "We wanted to have a dialogue and put their concepts in the physical plan." The series of meetings featured several University vice presidents, discussing various topics, including GW's academic mission and housing plans. But Demczuk said the talks broke off before they got to the more meaty subjects in the campus plan. Becker said she will vigorously contest any statement the University makes alleging it consulted the community before developing the plan. Trachtenberg said the ongoing fight between the University and its neighbors is not hurting the institution, just the community.

"The problem is how you get into a constructive, positive, rational conversation with your neighbors that allows them to have peace of mind and allows the University to mature in a thoughtful way," he said.

For now, the community is still gearing up for a fight. The fact that they probably won't win has not deterred them.

"You do fight, you don't always win, but you do make changes that are helpful," Becker said. "You get small victories."

(Reprinted with permission by The GW Hatchet. The GW Hatchet does not necessarily endorse the opinions or viewpoints of the Foggy Bottom Association or the Foggy Bottom News).

## You Thought You'd Seen Everything?

By Claire Ciftci

There was no boardwalk. There was no beach. But nowhere could there have been a more spectacular swimwear event than the one which occurred this summer at the Georgetown Retirement Residence.

The canines from Foggy Bottom modeled their best bathing costumes for the pleasure of the senior residents who acted as judges for this contest.

For the most clever design, it was a unanimous

vote for Halsey, the dachshund who seriously sported his scuba diver's outfit. He wore his oxygen tanks with great pride. There was a close decision in the ladies' division between Mishka in her bikini, sunglasses and inner tube, and the gorgeous Abbey who posed provocatively in her "peep-hole" one-piece garment. The most popular and admired little dog was Shadow (the senior canine at 19 years of age), who allowed the little red striped hat to remain intact

while ensconced in a small inner tube. A perky poodle, Daisy, looked so prim and proper in a lace Victorian chapeau and sarong-like suit. Her housemate, the distinguished Henry, removed his garments and remained au naturel. Ever shy, and unaccustomed to summer wear, the cockapoo Lucky and Lacey preferred to be spectators and "judges." Never shy, but busy investigating the other contestants, Nikki represented a true gaucho with his bright red paisley trunks and straw sombrero.

All the residents cheered with delight as the spunky canines paraded past them.



Even those who rarely leave their apartments regularly join the festivities when the dogs arrive to entertain them.

The colorful party ended with lovely trays of delicious goodies prepared by Gepettos Caterers.



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## Neighborhood Datebook

**Monday, October 25:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with Vanessa Dale Burns, Director, D.C. Department of Public Works, as featured speaker. All residents welcome. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday-Thursday, October 27-28:** Annual Sale/German Luncheon, featuring a white elephant sale and traditional German dishes (bratwurst, sauerkraut and kartoffel salat) and German pastries. United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., with luncheon served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 30:** Free physical therapy screenings for seniors, testing for bone density, posture, flexibility, strength, blood pressure, etc. Call 1-888-449-3627 to register. Ambulatory Care Center, Room 11-101, 2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Through Sunday, October 31:** "Japonisme" and Japanese printmaking exhibition. Dimock Gallery, 21st & H Streets, N.W. Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and in conjunction with Lisner Auditorium events.

**Thursday, November 4:** 1999 Flu Vaccine shots, sponsored by IONA Senior Services, at St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. Shots are free with Medicare card and proof of Part B insurance; or, a contribution of \$10 is requested. Call 966-1055 for further information. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

**Thursday-Sunday, November 4-7:** Production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," presented by GW Department of Theatre and Dance. For information call 994-6178.

**Sunday, November 7:** "Art for the Foot," a presentation by Curator of Costume Alden O'Brien surveying centuries of footwear style. Among the Museum's collection are gold embroidered mules of the 18th century, ankle boots and high-heeled shoes of the Victorian era, adorned baby shoes and wedding shoes. Reservations required, \$20 fee. 879-3241. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. 1:30-3:00 p.m.

**Thursday, November 11:** Jenny McKean Moore Reading Series, featuring Frank Bidard, author of five books of poetry. Corcoran Hall, Room 101, 725 21st Street, N.W. 8:15 p.m.

**Friday, November 12:** Opening of exhibition of panoramic photographs by Maxwell MacKenzie, entitled "Abandonings West: Black & White Panoramic Photographs of the Dakotas, Idaho, Montana & Minnesota. Featured are images of "exquisite, but fast-disappearing forms of the old barns, houses and schools that still dot the West." Show continues through January 14. AIA Headquarters Gallery, 1799 New York Avenue, N.W. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (See also November 18 event below.)

**Sunday, November 14:** Family Art Quilt Workshop, to bring together the whole family to decorate nine blocks with signatures, mementos and images to create a quilted wall hanging. All material provided. Reservations required; \$35 fee. 879-3241. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. 1:30-4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, November 17:** Public Meeting on Kennedy Center Access Studies, a Congressionally-mandated research

### D. C. Publishes Leaf Collection Brochure

A new brochure about the District's leaf collection program advises that leaves in our area will be collected twice this fall, as follows:

Area A, west of 23rd Street:

Rake leaves out by Sunday, October 24, for collection October 25-29

Rake leaves out by Sunday, November 28, for collection November 29-December 3

Area B, east of 23rd Street:

Rake leaves out by Sunday, November 7, for collection November 8-12

Rake leaves out by Sunday, December 12, for collection December 13-17

The new system gives

program to improve pedestrian and vehicular access to the Center in 20-30 years. Also included will be examination of environmental and aesthetic impacts. The research group is asking neighbors to attend and share their ideas on ways to link the Center with the community and with those from outside the neighborhood attending functions. 4:00-7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 17:** Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A meeting. For location, call 736-1775. 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, November 18:** Slide-illustrated talk by photographer Maxwell MacKenzie, plus a tour of the exhibition of his work. AIA Board Room, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. Octagon members free; non-members \$5.00. Call 879-7766 for reservations. 6:45 p.m.

**Friday, November 19:** Opening reception for show of paintings and prints by Jonathan Alderfer, called "the best bird painter in America." The show is to run through January 15. Included will be book plates from two recent books featuring Alderfer's works. Watergate Gallery, 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Call 338-4488 for info. 6:30-9:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 20:** St. Paul's Parish Annual Fall Rummage Sale and Bazaar. Pillsbury House, 2430 K Street, N.W. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

**Saturday, November 20:** Citizen Summit to Launch Neighborhood Action, sponsored by Mayor Anthony Williams, to engage D. C. citizens in developing and implementing common goals for the city. Call 727-0882 for information. Washington Convention Center, 9th & H Streets, N.W.

**Monday, November 22:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring Dusko Doder, author of a recently published book about Yugoslavia's Milosevic. Mark your calendars for a special presentation on this major political figure and for Doder's insight into the peoples and history of the area long beset by unrest and controversy. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

homeowners two options. Leaves raked into your curbside treebox space in front of your property will be vacuumed. Leaves are NOT to be raked into the street, and homeowners should try to also rake the leaves which fall into the street next to the curb. However, the brochure tells us to "avoid areas where there are parked cars..." which pretty much lets Foggy Bottom out.

The alternative is to bag the leaves and place them at the regular trash collection location. The crews will remove seven bags at a time, so "be patient; we will collect everything."

It is important to remove leaves from the street next to the curb so that water will run freely into the sewer catch-basins; also if they are left they become impacted and hard as concrete.

### Red Light Cameras Due on K Street

Two Foggy Bottom intersections have been selected to have cameras to catch red light runners. Scheduled to be installed before the end of October, there will be cameras at 25th and K Streets and at 27th and K Streets. Both intersections are on or near the Whitehurst Freeway, and the 25th Street location has been of special concern to residents for many years.

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## 40th Anniversary Events — Continued

### 40th Birthday Boat Ride Sold Out

Text and Photos by John Graves

Another highlight in the year-long celebration of the 40th Anniversary was the boat trip on the Potomac River. It was super, and another great idea of Olga Corey, the Mother Superior of the 40th. It was sold out -- a full house (boat)!

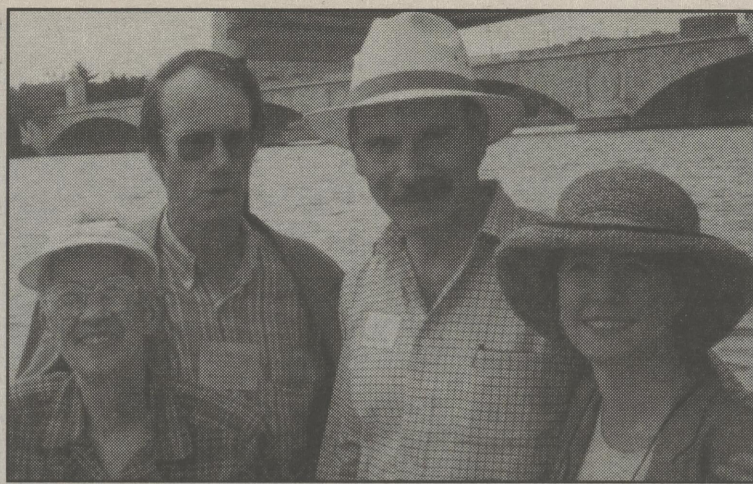
We cast off at the Georgetown pier and Ellie



was the only one who missed the gangplank (it was her plan all along — to avoid the heat). There were the usual number of political handshakers at the launch, but Phil Mendelsohn and his beautiful wife were the only two to sail with the jubilant crowd. There was plenty of seating and a complete cash bar for our Foggy Bottom neighbors who were joined by friends, family and employees.

What a finger-pointing day it was! We had passing yachts, water skiers and those weird ones on some sort of a jet ski; we saw the Harbor Police give them a citation, because they are illegal! It was good viewing all the way down past the National Airport with a turnaround at Ft. McNair.

The home of the War College is quite a historic place, especially when viewed from the water. It was at this point that Bob Brewster proudly told us that he attended that citadel of war — I



Mary Lou Hennessy and Jim McLeod pose with Councilmember Phil Mendelson and his wife Connie.

think it is defense or peace now. On our return Bob enthusiastically directed our attention to an esoteric monument, one of many in our city. It was right there on Ohio Drive just south of Abe

Lincoln. Of course it was for Ericson, the inventor of the screw propeller.

Some of the oldsters pointed out the concrete steps where we sat and watched the free concerts on the floating

stage — until the noisy jets put an end to that joy put on by the National Park Service. Now you must hear that story, it was a gate where the water went down Constitution Avenue which was a canal in those days, etc., etc. .... All Ashore!!

## More 40th Anniversary Kudos

The Chair of the 40th Anniversary Committee, Olga Corey, has listed a group of people and

organizations to whom thanks are due for their help.

One group too large to name individually is the "Points of Contact" neighbors who helped get out the word about the anniversary. Others who worked on Olga's committee were Bob and Anne Charles, David Anderson, John Graves, Marilyn Rubin, Grace Watson and Bill Williams. And we could not have had the successful program without the D. C. Historical Society, the West End Library, the Washingtonian Division of the D. C. Public Library, Watergate Gallery and Frame Design, and the Kennedy Center.

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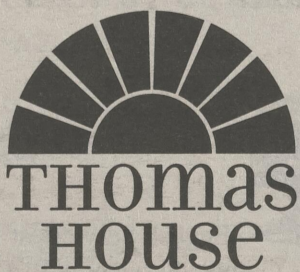


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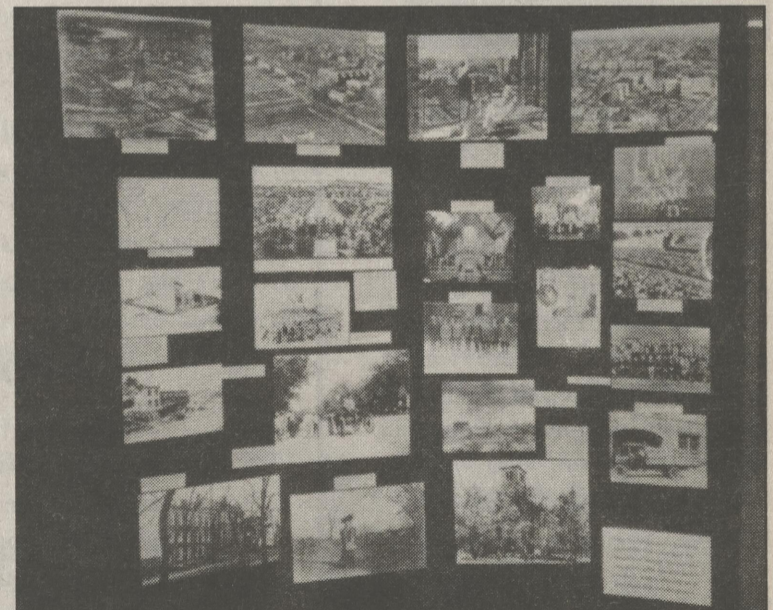
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From upper left: FB artist Bill D'Italia chats at Watergate Gallery opening reception, which drew an enthusiastic crowd. Ellie Becker poses with Mary Healy at the FBA Board Luncheon. At another table are Kate McLeod, Rita Champagne and Kathy Haley, and Janet and Charles Farbstein enjoy the party. On the 40th Anniversary boat trip, Robert Brewster and wife Mary watch the scenery, Kirsten Olsen poses near the Georgetown Harbour landing; and Barbara Spillinger, Richard Sheehey and Bob Charles show 40th anniversary smiles. On the Foggy Bottom walking tour, the group pauses at the F Street club and have the chance to see inside an interesting building as well. The West End Library exhibited a montage of old photos of the area.



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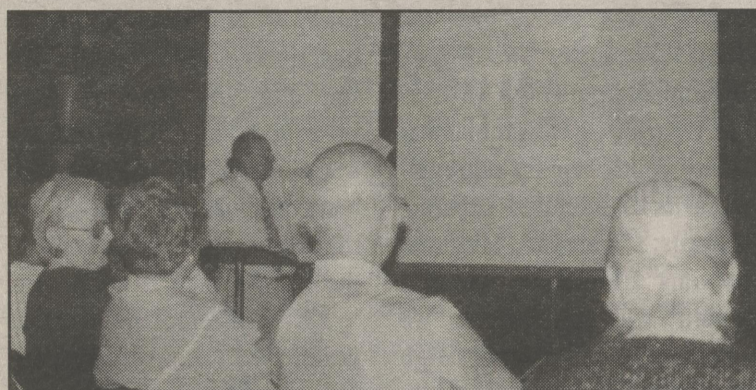
German Services at 9:30 on the first and third Sundays

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## Legal Fund Still Needs Your Help

A special legal fund was established by FBA to finance the various actions taken by the community against the proposed GW Hospital's construction. Many residents have been generous; legal fees, however, are mounting and need to be taken care of.

Send contributions to FBA Legal Fund, c/o West End Library, 24th & L Streets, N.W., 20037. They are tax-deductible and essential to the community's efforts.



From upper left: An attentive audience listens to local historian Kathryn Schneider Smith; and at the Historical Society of Washington, Gelman archivist David Anderson shows slides of past and present Foggy Bottom.

Frazier and his mistress Melissa Charron show their opposition to the GWU hospital site; Susan Wallace and fellow protester proudly hoist their opposition signs; and Jim McLeod has discussion with GWU President Trachtenberg.

Photos by Kirsten Olsen & John Graves



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

THE FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

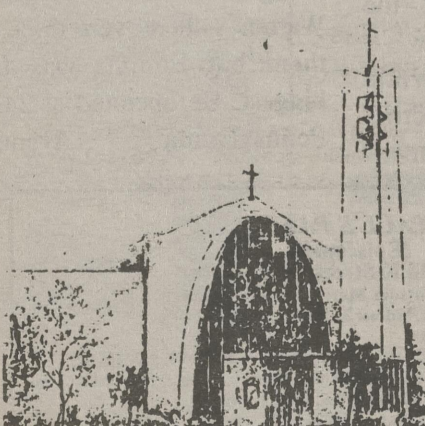
Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Foggy Bottom Association as it celebrates forty years of service in one of Washington's oldest neighborhoods. The Foggy Bottom Association is not only one of the oldest, it is one of our most active and valuable associations.

The Foggy Bottom Association's recorded history dates back to 1765 when Jacob Funk, a German immigrant, purchased and subdivided 130 lots between 24th and 19th Streets, NW and H Street to the river. This area, known as Hamburg, was the site of docks, glass factories, breweries, a gas works, and later stately homes and what were known as 'alley dwellings.' Shortly after World War II, public and private developers moved in, building large residential complexes, highways, government and private office buildings, and cultural and educational centers. At the same time, run-down housing stock was being purchased and rebuilt by a mix of people who formed the core of what is now the Foggy Bottom Association. This organization was dedicated to protecting and promoting the neighborhood.

Today, Foggy Bottom is an unusual mixture of homes, apartment dwellings, churches, hotels, restaurants, small businesses, large institutions and government agencies. Many old, historic buildings have been restored and are open to the public.

Music, art, good fellowship, and lots of history are all part of the anniversary program which culminates on June 19, 1999—the day the Foggy Bottom Association was incorporated in 1959.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this body to join me in celebrating the Foggy Bottom Association and congratulating the membership for their commitment to the preservation and protection of one of our treasured neighborhoods.



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## 24th & L Reminiscences

By Colbert King

Following is the address by Colbert King of the Washington Post, who addressed the FBA at its 40th anniversary meeting June 28, 1999. He was introduced by FBA Board Member and 40th Anniversary Chair Olga Corey.

The intriguing things to me about Mr. King are that he has been both an observer and a policy-maker. He has dealt at the federal level and the local level, and I think that niche makes him one of the most extraordinary people to look at an issue in its entirety. So please join me in welcoming Colbert King.

Thank you, Olga. It is customary to say on an occasion like this that it's a great pleasure to be here, but at my age, it's good to be anywhere. It's really a delight to be with you on your 40th anniversary. Not only is it an honor because it's a special moment to be with you, but a special moment for my sister Lucretia and my brother Cranston to be here as well, and I'm going to ask them to come forward.

It's a special moment for us because we in effect are returning to hallowed ground. In a real sense of the word it started right here for us. I can stand at this spot outside the building and I can literally see where it all began for me nearly 60 years ago, September 20, 1939, at Columbia Hospital. That's when I burst on the scene, and I haven't learned to keep my mouth shut since.

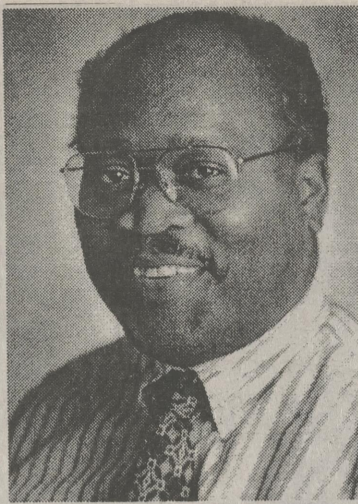
My brother was also born across the street at Columbia Hospital, and if you look out this window you can see the white building; it used to be red brick — it's where my sis-

ter Lucretia was born. The address is actually 2326 L Street, and that's where my parents were living at the time, with my grandparents. This is the plot where the King family stood, who left this area 40 years ago, just when your association was founded. There is no causal relationship.

## The Best Years of Our Lives

But in truth and in spirit we never left, because this is where we spent some of the best years of our lives. I hesitate to say that here in Foggy Bottom is where we spent some of the best years of our lives, because as you purists know this is not Foggy Bottom. Foggy Bottom started, or ended, at Pennsylvania Avenue. I see some heads nodding. It was bordered by the Potomac River, and 23rd Street, and it stopped at Pennsylvania Avenue. But for the purpose of what we're going to talk about, this is Foggy Bottom. And whether you accept those boundaries that I talked about or not, it can't be denied that this area 50 or 60 years ago was much different from what it is today.

I brought along some photographs that will give you a glimpse of what I'm talking about. I'm going to have to make these available to you later because I know you can't see them from there. But this is a picture of my house as it stood then; here I am in my Boy Scout uniform—on my honor I will do my best, etc. But that's the house that stood on these grounds. Also, you have another glimpse of the house, the front yard of the house, with my brother and sister.



Colbert King

This would have been taken in the late 1940s, and you can see the streetcar on Pennsylvania Avenue, and the building across the street is an office building but is really an apartment building. The interesting thing about this street, L Street, is it's going west to let people get out of town quick.

And here is a picture of my father standing on the corner near the water hydrant, which is still out there. This would have been — it says 1958 but it's not, 1958 is when we left — this would have been something like 15-20 years earlier, maybe in '48, ten years earlier. And here's a picture of Columbia Hospital.

I graduated from Francis Junior High School, my brother's pictured graduating from Stevens Elementary School, and you can see the same fence that's out there now is bordering the hospital, except that the extension was not there. So we had these grounds that we used to play on, and this is where the police used to chase us all the time. And there are also some pictures of Washington Circle, of my mother and the three of us. This photo I'm going to hold on to for a second, this last one. It would

have been about 1941, yes, the war was going on at the time.

But more has changed than just the immediate physical surroundings of the area. Foggy Bottom today is less racially integrated than when we grew up as kids. You heard me. I didn't say that Foggy Bottom was less segregated then than now. The Foggy Bottom of my youth was, as the District of Columbia was in my youth, legally segregated. Blacks attended separate schools; blacks attended Stevens Elementary School which was all black, we attended Francis Junior High School which was all black, as did my mother and my father; they attended the same elementary and junior high school. In those days we had separate theaters, for the white kids it was the Circle Theater on Pennsylvania Avenue, and we had the Mott Theater which was at 26th and M Streets. We had separate restaurants, separate swimming pools (the pool at Francis Junior High was black). I think the white kids went to a pool in Georgetown. And of course the city had restrictive covenants, which forbade the sale of homes to blacks and Jews.

When I say this area is less integrated today than before, it's because it's the truth. Take this block in which we lived: our family was obvious, the family next to us was black, the next two families were black, but in the next family home was a white family, and Cranston may want to say something about that family because they were very close friends of ours. On the next street the houses were white families; the apartment at the corner — we had a name for it, right at the Avenue, that's there now — we called it "The White Apartment," because across the alley was another apart-

ment for black people we called "The Colored Apartment."

The point I'm trying to make is that throughout this area we had whites and blacks living together as neighbors, respecting all the racial conventions and all the restrictions, but still living as neighbors. A difficult thing to describe because the law was the law and the law was observed, but relationships transcended the law in many respects, just as it did across the street, and up and down the entire Foggy Bottom area.

It is different today from yesterday in some other ways. The specific community we had then, I suspect, is not here today. I could leave my house and walk six or seven blocks in any direction and I would run into a relative, a fellow church member, classmates, friends of my parents, classmates of my parents from elementary school; it was real sense of community. Where are the children of Foggy Bottom today? There aren't any, and there were children everywhere when we were growing up. It was a community of children, a community of churches — the churches were the glue.

## Crime Was Different Then

Did we have crime? We didn't have street crime, not much street crime. You slept with your doors open, we slept on our porch with our doors open in weather like this. We didn't have air conditioning so you slept on the house steps, with a blanket all night long. Now, I didn't say it was crime-free; we had organized crime. Big time! How many have heard of the Warren Brothers? Emmitt Warren — there were three of them but Emmitt was the biggest. He operated at 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue,

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upstairs, heads nodding in the rear — he was a big time gambler of the first magnitude. Owned cops. The thing that was interesting about him — there were some Congressional hearings about this, they were going to bust up crime in the District of Columbia, shame of it all, shame of it all — so they had these hearings and they talked about seeing the Chief of Police, whose name was Barrett, the Chief of Police was tied in with Emmitt Warren. When the Chief's mother died, Emmitt Warren sent her a big spray of roses, and we said in the neighborhood, "What's wrong with that? He sent my grandmother a big spray of roses. He sent everybody a big spray of roses who played the numbers with him." He was the biggest numbers writer this town had ever known. But it wasn't until about a year ago that I understood the magnitude of, the reach, the tentacles of Emmitt Warren.

We have a photo which is not here tonight, but my grandfather, Isaiah Kane, II, who lived at 2326, right across the street, was a fixture on the top step of the home, a fixture, he was always there, looking after his grandchildren, we thought, watching us like a hawk. My grandfather didn't go out of the house because he watched us all the time, we thought he was the greatest man. That's not true, we just learned. My grandfather was a lookout for the numbers operation that ran out of the house right over

here where the police station is. Emmitt Warren took care of him too.

But that's what it was like on those days. It was organized but it was neat, so you could go anywhere, do anything, because Emmitt Warren wasn't going to let any street thugs do anything in this area. This area was his; it was a benevolent kind of aberration. No bullets except his; he had the bullets; if he didn't want them to fly, they didn't fly. But there were some things in those days that were very much like now. We had a structure of governance, three commissioners appointed by the President of the United States. Today, we have a 13-member Council and a School Board; in those days we had two divisions for the school system, Division 1 was for the white kids, Division 2 for the black kids. It should have been the other way around, but we were number 2. The school board today is elected, 11 members; the school board then was appointed. Who appointed the school board? Hands, hands, who appointed the school board? Yes, the judges appointed the school board.

### Some Things Are The Same Today

But there are some things that are the same today as they were in our youth. We still have appointed people calling the shots. They are called the D. C. Financial Control Board. And Congress is still the 900-pound gorilla which gets its way whenever it wants to get something done. But there's another gorilla around that was just beginning to come on the scene when we were about the leave. It's a gorilla called George Washington University.

This photo here will tell you about then as opposed to

## Foggy Bottom Folks

It's been a busy summer for **Anne and Bob Charles**. Anne, long active in FB and former FBNews editor, retired from federal service. They headed to Southampton, England, so Bob could "marry off" his daughter Lisa. Lisa is a world-class ocean sailor, and served as co-captain of the only all-women's team in the last America's Cup race. She completed the "Whitbread," a 27,000 around-the-world race, and will be a fulltime crew member on a new team



Lisa and Neal McDonald

now. Here's a picture of my sister, my brother and me at Washington Circle. We are standing facing west.

Behind us is a tree and an apartment building. Today the hospital replaces the apartment building. This was one of the first forays of George Washington University away from its original home. The second was when it took the Liberty Baptist Church, which is our church, the church in which we were raised. Liberty was on 23rd Street between H and I. I think they took it over and made it, first, the house for physical education for women. That date has got to be 1944.

The then was, not a bucolic existence, but it was community, it was family, it was a world in which we all felt secure and comfortable. We didn't have the intrusion of any large outside elements; we were self-contained. It was a day that's gone; it's a day that we're never going to see again; and it's a shame, because if more children had the kind of childhood we enjoyed in Foggy Bottom, speaking for myself, this would be a much better place.

which hopes to bring home the America's Cup from New Zealand. Bob and Anne took the opportunity to do a "whirlwind" tour of northern Europe (Paris, Berlin, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and London).

From United Church comes the news that its organist, Dr. Stephen Ackert, was one of the musicians in the program "Thuringian Organ Summer." It is held annually in the area of Weimar in central Germany, featuring organs of historic interest; one Renaissance-style instrument dating from 1728 required Dr. Ackert to relearn the pedal parts for his recital. He participated in six concerts held in churches in small towns,

playing works by Bach, Pachelbel, and three American composers, Robert Lind, Denis Lovinfosse, and Philip Gehring.

There was a gathering of "days gone by" speakers this summer at the program held by the Gelman Library to open its "Foggy Bottom - The History of a Neighborhood" exhibit. **Hazel Hanback**, who attended Grant School and lives on F Street, told of carefree days when she and friends walked into the White House garden gate and received candy from President McKinley.

Raised at 2623 Virginia Avenue was **Mary Brown**, who attended school on E Street and is still active in St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 23rd Street. The third speaker was historian **Harold Langley**, who lived years ago at 23rd and I Streets, and on F Street in the hotel which is now GWU's Thurston Hall. Langley has written a history of St. Stephen Martyr Church and is working on a second volume. **Bradford Tatum**, who lived at 316-1/2 22nd Street, reported watching a Ku Klux Klan march along Virginia Avenue in 1925.

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**Update, from page 1**

tive standards to define the net job and economic potential of each project." Revenue bond issues are to benefit the public as well as the institution. Foggy Bottom's Dale Barnhard asked the committee to "do your jobs and get something for the city, neighborhood, and GW."

Representatives of the university testified on behalf of its request, including two Student Association officers; ANC Commissioner Steven Mandelbaum also testified for the bond issue, and according to the GW Hatchet said that most Foggy Bottom residents "think GW is a good neighbor." He also said that GWU should work to house 80 percent of its students within the campus boundary.

The ANC resolution, passed at a special meeting on September 29, named the properties GW has purchased

recently outside the campus. ANC Commissioner Dorothy Miller also testified and attached to her statement a list prepared in July 1999. Properties purchased by the University include the Howard Johnson, the Aston, the Dakota, Riverside Hotel, Foggy Bottom Inn, AGC Building, Life Underwriters building, townhouses on Square 43, 1916 and 1918 F Street, plus 14 Foggy Bottom buildings which have a high percentage of student renters.

Spillinger asked several pertinent questions in summary:

"WHY — would we, the community, be in favor of saving literally millions of dollars for GW when the object of its borrowing is to buy up our community?"

"WHAT — is the benefit to the District from this type of funding if the result is to remove property from the tax

### GW Hospital Changes Phone Number

Beginning in October, the GW Hospital's phone number was changed to 715-4000. New department phone numbers can be obtained by checking the hospital's website.

rolls and drive tax-paying citizens, the sine qua non of residential neighborhoods, out of the city?

"WHERE — is the quid pro quo (the benefit to the city)? And —

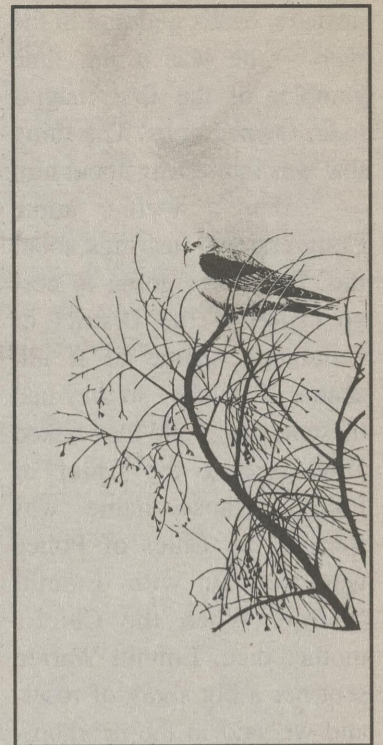
"WHO — will step in and support the community in this David vs. Goliath battle? We hope this Committee and the Council will. We ask that Council members postpone consideration of this funding request pending a study of its economic benefit to the city, and that negotiations between the University and the community be forth-coming before the next Campus Plan becomes another divisive wedge...."

The committee is expected to vote on the bond issue November 2.

## Watergate Gallery to Host "Best Bird Painter" Show

The Watergate Gallery will present paintings and prints by Jonathan Alderfer beginning on Friday, November 19. The artist has been called "the best bird painter in America," and his work appears in the National Geographic Society's "Field Guide to the Birds of North America" (3rd ed.), "All the Birds of North America," published by The American Bird Conservancy, and an extensive list of other books and journals. In addition to his illustrations, he features birds in fine art painting and relief prints, and has had one-man shows in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the National Audubon Gallery in Los Angeles.

A native of Pennsylvania, Alderfer moved to D. C. graduated from Sidwell Friends School, and attended the Corcoran School of Art. He now lives in the Palisades section of D. C. with his wife and daughter (who attends school



with Dale Johnson's children). Dale advises that his work appeared in Washingtonian Magazine, a fold-out page of illustrations of birds in the D. C. area.

Dale Johnson of Watergate Gallery, who hosted our 40th Anniversary event of paintings by Foggy Bottom's Bill D'Italia, invites her Foggy Bottom friends to this new and exciting exhibition.

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## IN MEMORIAM

# Mei Yuen Hoover

The George Washington University, BA 1945

Neighbor, Alumna, and Friend of The George Washington University Mei Yuen Hoover, who passed away last winter, often described her GW-student years as being among the happiest in her life. And, many years later, she returned to our Foggy Bottom neighborhood, where she lived until her death.

On October 7, 1999, representatives of her estate presented a \$1 million check to the University, pursuant to Ms. Hoover's wishes. The contribution establishes a Mei Yuen Hoover Scholarship Fund, income from which will be used to endow scholarships for disabled students who wish to study at GW's Columbian School of Arts & Sciences.

The University is honored by Ms. Hoover's loyalty and generosity. The beneficiaries of her gift will keep her memory alive for generations to come.

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